Quarterly Journal of the McHenry County Historical Society & Museum

# Tracer

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County History 9/2024 Issue 179

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"The purpose of any historic preservation (the one and only purpose) is to communicate the lessons of history, in order that the present and the future may learn from the past (a most fascinating tool of instruction), a mechanism for breathing life into the chronicle of bygone human experience, giving it vitality and vivid meaning -- a sense of personal identification and contemporary importance.

If historic preservation does that, then it is important, it is worthwhile, it has a definite place in our society, it can contribute to our welfare and it can help to guide the present and the future."

*(An excerpt from "What's Wrong with Historic Preservation," by Dr. Kenneth Chorley, President of Colonial Williamsburg, printed in the April, 1956 Quarterly Journal of the New York State Historical Association - Found as a single plastic sleeved typed page in our own Institutional Archives)*

Bob Frenz's interview with Nancy Fike concludes on page 9.

**2024 Museum Hours**
Tuesday - Friday 1 - 4 PM
Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM
**March through October**

**Coming up at the Museum:**
**October 6th 10am-2pm**
**47th Annual Cider Fest**

October 12th Speaker: Craig Pfannkuche
C&NW Railway: Union to Marengo

## *Someone we knew*

# Jan Knight

**Interview by NANCY FIKE**

*Editor's note: Nancy conducted this interview at the end of April. Jan was a schoolteacher until 1999, then spent many years volunteering with the Society's Heritage Quilters, not just quilting, but creating their two quilt history books (see pg 12). Putting them together with her was very rewarding. Her attention to detail was impressive. Sadly, Jan passed on September 8th. We've lost a former board member and a very good friend.*

### JAN'S EARLY YEARS

"I was born in Belvidere. My parents lived in Chicago but all four grandparents were in Belvidere. My parents came out to stay, as did my older sister, while my mother was having me. That was in February 1940. We went back to live in Chicago and were there several years. After WWII, they bought a little house in LaGrange. They moved out there while Dad continued to work in Chicago. In 1947 we moved out to Woodstock where I attended the last two weeks of first grade, then all the rest of my school years there.

Dad's name was Warner Miller. He worked in the banking business, eventually becoming Senior VP of the 1st National Bank of Woodstock. My parents were the same age but didn't date until they were out of school. My Mom was Jessemae; she didn't have a middle name. Her maiden name was Warn. She worked a long time for the telephone company and then after they were married, she was a homemaker, until my sister Kathy and I were in high school. Then she worked at the Woodstock Dry Goods Company for college money. She had that job in the ready-to-wear department. She was a buyer and once a month she'd go into Chicago and select clothes to have shipped to the store. She had that job until we were out of school and married, then she went back to being a homemaker. I think it was Dad's job offer that was too good to be true at a bank in Woodstock and they liked the idea of being out a little further.

Nancy was first a volunteer, then a board member, an officer and finally the longest serving Administrator of the McHenry County Historical Society, retiring more than a decade ago. She is, now again volunteering at the museum.

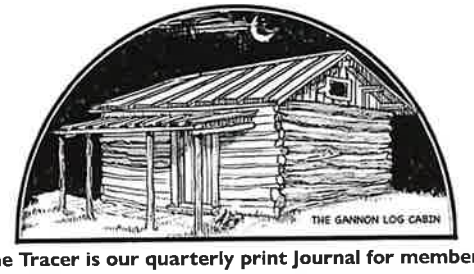
There was only my sister and myself and oddly enough my parents each had only one sister. My mother's sister died when she was only 18 so there was no other family that came from her. My Dad's sister had one daughter and her husband died in WWII so I only had one first cousin which most people can hardly believe. Our family reunions were all two generations. All the grandparents' siblings sitting around amazed at how much we grew since the last picnic. Our reunions were always at Pecatonica. It was always said that if all the Millers got together they could fill up the Pecatonica Fairgrounds.

We lived up on Hibbard Street in Woodstock which is only two houses long--right off Kimball. It was at the edge of town, and I was able to ride my bike to Dean Street School and Central Junior High. That old red brick building is now part of a fire station across the street from the Methodist Church. I was busy with band all those years. We had a beautiful upbringing.

We shopped at the National Tea grocery store across from the Post Office on the square. The Piggly Wiggly was there too. It was easy to grab some groceries quick. We only had one car so we had to get loaded up to go pick up my father after work. We hoped he would come out soon but there were a lot of times in cold weather when we'd be sitting in the car blowing on the windows to get frost to form.

Charla Johansen Pierce was a good friend from 4th grade on. Jerry Scott was another. Her mother Norma worked on the Draft Board [Selective Service], so she knew everybody. Those two were my best friends all through school."

continued on page 3




**The Tracer is our quarterly print Journal for members. Published since May 1974, it features society news, photographs, reports and local history articles.**

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***We were founded in 1963 - Our museum opened July 4, 1976***

Our museum campus is located between Routes 20 and 176, at 6422 Main Street in Union, Illinois

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## MUSEUM STAFF

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Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator ..... Janet Barron
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Research Librarian ..... Russell O'Brien

### OFFICE HOURS:

Year Around, Monday through Friday - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

### RESEARCH LIBRARY

*ONLY by appointment, after completing a research request online. Free to members,* $30 for non-members. Copy & Image fees may apply.

### MUSEUM HOURS:

Our museum exhibits are open March through October
1-4 pm -Tuesday through Friday
11 am - 4 pm - Saturday, except major holidays

### OUR MISSION

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County history.

### OUR VISION

*We endeavor to be a hub for collection, preservation and educational outreach reflecting McHenry County's history.*

*We are a 501(c)3 Illinois nonprofit.*
**We depend on you for our support.**
*We are not funded by local taxes.*
**Your membership & donations are appreciated.**

To join us in **engaging volunteer opportunities,** contact Janet Barron directly @ 815/923-1261 or email: **volunteer@mchenrycountyhistory.org**

President's

Column

# From the Board President

As we start a new fiscal year here at the now 61-year old McHenry County Historical Society, I'll reflect on what I have seen and experienced this past year. Oh, what a year! We introduced our new Executive Director, Anna Pivoras at our annual meeting in July 2023 to abruptly lose her to another museum within weeks. So, we went back to our search and in October, hired Dr. Wayne Duerkes. He brought a different approach and accomplished important tasks for us, but chose to move on to another job.

Staff office manager, Lela Olson, has continued to revamp the museum store and in addition has put the store items for sale online for everyone's convenience.

Staff curator, Kira Stell, has created two new exhibits, **Creation of Wonder Lake** and **Electrifying McHenry County**. In addition, Kira worked with our volunteer Ken Hobbs to create more storage upstairs in the original school portion of our museum.

Staff Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Janet Barron, works extensively with our now three-year old constituent relationship management system, NeonCRM, to help organize and automate outreach to members, potential members, volunteers and vendors. It's also instrumental in managing incoming donations, which are so vital to our organization, since we're not taxpayer supported. Neon also provides a platform for to get our monthly E-newsletter out to over 1500 email addresses.

In addition, Janet, Don and others are working through a website task force process, seeking a fresh new approach to benefit everyone. Our current site, rich with local history stories, has grown cumbersome for both users and site editors because website technology has changed considerably in the last decade, since Don and Grace put it into place. We continue to work through potential vendors, site content and the overall transition process, a huge task involving many stages.

Staff Research Librarian, Rachel Seidner has left. We now welcome our new librarian (still part time, due to budget and grant funding constrants), Russell O'Brien, who will work closely with Arlyn Booth and Maggie Crane, our longtime volunteer library professionals (Arlyn is also on our board). Rachel added new procedures to improve our research requests process. Research for members and others is a popular interest from many of our constituents.

In addition, there have been many behind the scenes projects that committees, staff, board members and volunteers have worked through - too many to mention - with always more to come (hint: we need your help!) - So, a big a thank you to all!

As move into this next fiscal year, I would like to thank each of you for your continued support of our Society and Museum through your membership and donations. As one of our valued members, I ask you to share your love of history with those close to you and encourage them to become a member. If you believe in the value of your membership, it will produce in you an enthusiasm about MCHS that will spread like a cold in a kindergarten classroom - I know that world too! I also welcome Bob Frenz back to his position as board president and Lonni Oldham as our new VP. ❧

Karen Parks

## EDUCATION

"I graduated from high school in 1958. I went on to Macalester College in St. Paul MN, because I wanted a small school, and it was a Presbyterian school. It was a good fit. At that time, you could write for bulletins, but I had never seen the campus until Mom and Dad drove me up there with my belongings filling up the back of the car. We got there about eight hours later, and they left the next morning. Sure, it was an adventure, but I loved it up there.

I started out as a Medical Technologist major, but I got derailed by going to the Presbyterian Youth group from the campus. One of the members there had just come back from a summer in Africa. I decided I should go to Africa, so I ended up being able to go for eight weeks. We did manual labor--carrying rocks for a school foundation and clean up. There were 180 of us who went, and we were divided into groups of ten to twelve. We went to different countries and there weren't always African college kids to meet with us.

So, we would meet with villagers who had projects set up for us to do. I was in a tiny country called Togo, right next to Ghana. The country is still there. I was there during their Independence Day Celebration in 1960. At that time, a lot of colonies had been able to win their independence. I never regretted going. When I returned, I decided I enjoyed helping people, so I switched my major to Nursing instead of Med Tech, putting me in a lab somewhere.

But, by the time I got back from Africa I developed a tape worm and ended up in a Ghana hospital for a week or so. I recovered and returned to Macalester to graduate (1962) with a degree in Biology and minor in Sociology. An odd combination and yet interesting how a civilization and culture could be impacted by biology and chronic illness. All sorts of bacterial things you could get just by wading in the water. I got a job in Chicago at a lab at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital for one year."

## BRIAN AND OUR FAMILY

"By this time, I had met Brian Knight. He was still in the Air Force, and we married (1963) and moved to Charlevoix in lower Michigan.

Just outside town, he worked a radar bomb scoring (RBS) unit. They also had bomb scoring units all around Chicago. They were at Nike (missile) sites at that time. The Army's Nike project was primarily a line-of-sight anti-aircraft missile system. The unit's duty was to get a pilot on the radio to figure out distance from a target and wind speed - all that kind of info. The airplane would make a simulated bomb drop and the RBS guys on the ground could plot all that stuff and (determine) how close they had come to the target. In real war time, the roles reversed. The RBS people would tell a pilot coming in with bombs about all those conditions so they could hit a target when told to release.

Brian was discharged in 1965 and we moved back to his home in New Hampshire where he could finish college. He had picked up a couple of years of college credits here and there wherever he happened to be. He then finished up his teaching degree in NH. I taught high school biology for one year, while he finished. Then we moved back to Woodstock. My parents had lined up a house for us to rent. Brian had come out on a break and got a job as a junior high social studies teacher at the brand-new Northwood Jr High. That's what brought us back in 1970.

Our kids grew up in McHenry County. Stephen, first born, was five, Sarah was three, and Seth only five weeks old when we moved back. We had a U-Haul truck and a Volkswagen bug--quite a trip but, we made it safely. We lived in a nice, rented house in Woodstock. We got to know a lot of staff members at Northwood Junior High. One of them was a couple known as the Kynells. Mike was a science teacher. His wife Mary became a good friend of mine."

## RINGWOOD

"Mary's grandmother lived in the house in Ringwood that we moved into. When she passed away, we thought it might be a nice place to live. The house never went on the market. They were willing to sell it to us, so in 1973 we moved to Ringwood.

The downtown area was pretty much like it is today. Homes going north and east along Barnard Mill Road in the new subdivisions weren't there, but farms like the Hogan's were. For a while, there was a little market. If you needed milk or eggs, you were okay, but if you needed more you had to go down into McHenry. The Ringwood Post Office has been here forever. The little market was practically right next door to the PO. Nearby, there was a foundry-type business that did metal work. We are quite sure that the railings at both our front and back doors were made there.

The day we moved in, Brian had all the guys from his school helping us. We fed everybody and they left for another load. I was with our three kids when I heard the most incredible boom ever, thinking the Morton Chemical plant had blown up. It was actually the fireworks place in McCullom Lake, about four miles away. That was my first day in Ringwood! This huge mushroom cloud was drifting overhead. Well, that's when I met some of our neighbors. Everyone was out in their yards looking up to see what had happened. It seemed like my brick house raised up and thankfully came down on its foundation!

*On June 9, 1973 just before three in the afternoon, an explosion leveled the World Wide Fireworks Company on McCullom Lake Road, near McHenry. The rumbling quake possibly caused by spontaneous combustion, was felt for miles. Damage was estimated at $500,000. Windows throughout McHenry were wavering and many shattered.*

I was able to get into some graduate courses through Woodstock District 200. They were offered to teachers to get their learning disabilities certification. So, I took advantage of that opportunity. They were given after school at the SEDOM Center (Special Education District of McHenry County) where I was an aide. After school, our two older kids would come home and stay with our neighbors, the Everetts. Seth was still pretty little, so Brian would pick him up from a babysitter where I had dropped him off in the morning and bring him to me at the SEDOM center where he sat on my lap while I worked on my courses. My classmates were fascinated he was so good and would just draw pictures while I took notes. Eventually, I got the eighteen credits required to have a certification added to my teaching degree.

I do have some history on the Ringwood house we moved into (Spring 1973 photo above). The house was all white on the outside and over the years we just left the weather to wash that off (it now shows a creamy brick). All around the house were evergreen trees, probably four to five feet tall. The road in front was not where it is now. We had more front yard when we moved in, but the local road commissioner chopped off about twelve feet. It happened when Brian was gone. I went out and was told they were straightening a curve. I still don't understand how you straighten a curve by moving the outside edge out even further. We were offered $50 to let them move a utility pole up further onto our yard, but we said no, and they had to survey the new roadbed again.

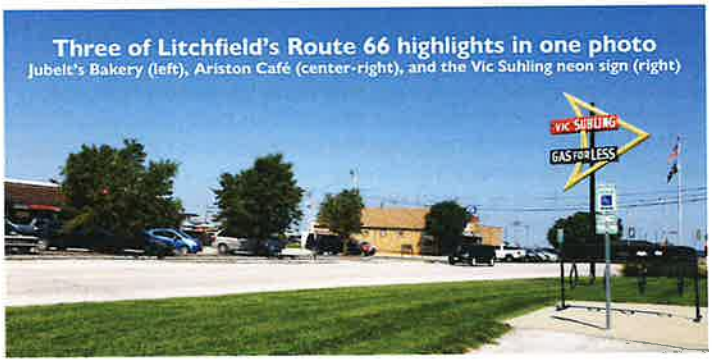
The little place across the street was just a little neighborhood tavern. It was very noisy - very unruly. I had the telephone number for the sheriff's department memorized, so at 3 a.m., I could dial them up. They would come out and it would be quiet for awhile. It now is a huge restaurant and bar with good food and nice patrons - The Rusty Nail.

continued on page 6

# Getting My Kicks on Route 66

**By EMILY DATTILO**

Route 66 has achieved legendary status in American culture. It is both a series of physical places, including plenty of roadside attractions, and a powerful symbol of American freedom and mobility. It represents future opportunities and the adventure of a quintessential road trip. In the present, Route 66 has also become a sort of time machine, taking travelers back to the seemingly simpler and more charming days of the mid-1900s. All of these different meanings have been preserved in pieces of popular culture over the decades, like the 1946 King Cole Trio song written by Bobby Troup "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66" and Cars, the 2006 Disney Pixar movie. Its lasting influence on American culture is even more amazing, considering the route was officially decommissioned in 1985. Although modern highway systems bypass Route 66, this historic road still drew my friends and I in the summer of 2021



**Three of Litchfield's Route 66 highlights in one photo**
Jubelt's Bakery (left), Ariston Café (center-right), and the Vic Suhling neon sign (right)

Deeper cultural significance aside, I was excited to explore some of the history on this legendary road. Route 66 was once the fastest way to get from Chicago to Los Angeles all year round, stretching over 2,000 miles from beginning to end. Motels, service stations, restaurants, and roadside attractions dotted the route in order to keep travelers and their cars well-rested, well-fed, well-fueled, and thoroughly entertained. These travelers included not just vacation-goers, but also shipping truck drivers, bootleggers delivering illegal alcohol to major cities during Prohibition, and migrants displaced by the Dust Bowl.

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 marked the beginning of the end for Route 66. This legislation provided funding for the Interstate Highway System, which forms today's network of highways across the U.S. Unfortunately, most of these new highways replaced or completely bypassed portions of Route 66, turning many thriving small communities into ghost towns. By 1977, Interstate 55 had largely replaced most of the Illinois stretch of Route 66.

Route 66 still had plenty of supporters by the time it was decommissioned. Congress formed the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 1999 and renewed it in 2009. Today, the National Park Service provides a good deal of information on its history. The Illinois stretch of Route 66 was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2003 and has since been under the care of The Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway organization. These organizations, as well as those in other Route 66 states, all work to help communities and businesses along the route preserve historic sites and increase tourism. Because of their hard work, tourists can continue to experience the road in all its historic, if also kitschy, glory. In 2026, Illinois will hold a Route 66 Centennial Celebration.

Emily Dattilo is a public historian and the director of the Mount Prospect Historical Society. Prior to this role, she graduated with her Master's degree in History from Marquette University, then worked and volunteered in history museums around Illinois and Wisconsin, including MCHS.

Our Route 66 journey truly began in Litchfield, Illinois, where we stayed the night after spending a day at Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis. Litchfield is the halfway point between Chicago and St. Louis, on two of Route 66's three different alignments. (Those are the 1930-1940 and the 1940-1977 alignments.) *Editor's note: See www.route66-map.com for Mother Road alignment details.* This town boasts some of the longest-running establishments along Route 66. The Ariston Cafe is one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants on Route 66 and is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. It originally opened in 1924; later moved to its present-day location in 1935. We didn't eat there, but the parking lot was packed, which is always a good sign!

The Sky View Drive-In Theater in Litchfield has been open since 1950, making it the last and oldest drive-in theater on Route 66. Unfortunately, there were no shows playing the night we were in town. I can, however, attest to the deliciousness of the tea cookies at Jubelt's Bakery. The first Jubelt's opened in the nearby Route 66 town of Mount Olive in 1922, and over the decades the owners opened branches in other neighboring towns. The Litchfield location opened in 1952, moving to its current location along Route 66 in 1982.

It pained my museum-loving heart that we couldn't stay in town long enough to wait for the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center to open. It looked like such a wonderful small museum! Since we couldn't go inside, I enjoyed the displays on the outside. Along the side of the museum there are pieces of historic local buildings with panels that explained their significance. It was a clever way to display unique traces of history! I also appreciated the giant neon Vic Suhling Gas Station sign, which is in its original location, and the Route 66 photo ops behind the building. This museum does a great job giving visitors something to see and do, even when its doors are closed. The outdoor displays are all the more impressive considering the museum

**Henry's Rabbit Ranch**

is entirely run by volunteers.

After exploring Litchfield, we turned south to visit Henry's Rabbit Ranch in Staunton. Its name refers to both the owner's furry, cuddly rabbits and the VW Rabbit cars parked on the grounds. Although the Rabbit Ranch looks like it's on the site of an old service station, it's actually a reproduction built by the owner, Rich Henry, in 1993. According to the website, Henry was inspired to build the Rabbit Ranch after his own trip along Route 66 left him disappointed in how few visitor centers were still on the original road. This site is his way of both providing a visitor's center for modern-day travelers and celebrating the quirkiness of Route 66. After visiting, I can heartily agree that he's accomplished all of that and more.

My friends and I explored the site and took a photo with the giant jackrabbit statue in the yard, though we were disappointed to find that Henry's rabbits were not on-site that day. The best part, however, was

getting to talk with Rich Henry himself. At first we weren't sure that the shop was open, but we tried our luck anyway and the door was open. The sign outside said there were no set hours/days and we could catch him by "chance or appointment." It turns out the shop actually wasn't open, but Rich was kind enough to let us look around. He was friendly and very welcoming, and we all enjoyed chatting with him about rabbits and Route 66. He even gave us a couple of visitor guides when we said we hadn't picked any up yet. (The Rabbit Ranch was on the cover of the Illinois Route 66 Visitor Guide!) This kind of hospitality is one of the reasons people still take a trip along Route 66. In a way, it's a sort of living history experience in that the Rabbit Ranch helps maintain a sense of community once found at each stop along Route 66.

Our next stop was Soulsby's Service Station in Mt. Olive, which turned us northwards towards Springfield. Henry Soulsby opened this service station in 1926, the same year that Route 66 was commissioned. Even though Interstate 55 bypassed Mount Olive in the late 1950s, the Soulsby family continued pumping gas at their station until 1991. In 2003 the current owner and neighbor of the Soulsby family, Mike Dragovich, and the Soulsby Preservation Society began restoring the building. Their hard work paid off. In 2004 Soulsby's Service Station was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Even though the Service Station is almost 100 years old, every inch of it still looks like a classic service station. I especially loved the bright red and yellow Shell gas pumps. The interior of the station was open to visitors too. There were display cases of Shell oil and Route 66 memorabilia, some items from original owner Russ Soulsby, and old service station equipment. One of Russ Soulsby's side jobs was repairing radios and television sets, so there were historic examples all around the station. This stop on our journey was a wonderful opportunity to explore one of the many unique service stations that once kept drivers rolling along Route 66.

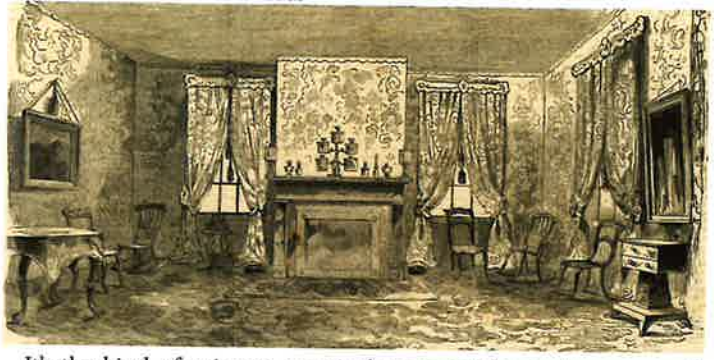
Sadly, our journey along Route 66 ended in Springfield. While there are more traditional Route 66 sites in and around the area, like the Cozy Dog Drive-In and the Lauterbach Giant Muffler Man, my friends and I decided to explore Abraham Lincoln-related sites instead. Unfortunately we only had time to explore one of the many,

many Lincoln sites in Springfield, so I chose the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. I visited Lincoln's Springfield home once when I was much younger, but this was a chance to refresh my memory, as well as to see it again with better-educated eyes.

This popular site actually covers the home and a small section of the surrounding neighborhood, all operated by the National Park Service. Walking into the historic neighborhood feels a little like walking into a living history museum. I half expected to see staff members and volunteers dressed in historic clothing! This site doesn't regularly incorporate interpreters in historic clothing, but I found out later they do schedule living history demonstrations, like playing historic games, throughout the year.

The Park Ranger guides did a wonderful job leading our group through Lincoln's home and using that setting to show the down-to-earth side of Lincoln. I know from my own experiences that the many interesting things inside a historic house can create difficulties in getting one main idea across during a tour, especially when its resident was as famous as Lincoln, so I'm extra impressed that the guides were able to keep the tour focused and concise.

The National Park Service does a great job maintaining the house, and the entire setup showed their attention to detail. The best part of the layout is that all of the rooms look like they did when the Lincolns lived there, because Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper published prints (Sitting Room, below) of their entire house in 1860, shortly after Lincoln was nominated.



It's the kind of primary source that many historic homes would love to have! The most impactful artifact in the house was the mirror hanging at Abraham Lincoln's eye-level. It's not just a great visual reference for his height, but it's also a humble reminder that in many respects he was an ordinary human. Even great historical figures need a mirror to manage bed head in the morning.

After touring the Lincoln Home and neighborhood, my friends and I left Route 66 to return to our home base. We did a lot of driving on this trip, and after all those miles I can see the appeal of Route 66. It has a lot more character and has had a lot better advertising than most other roadways. All the roadside attractions that make Route 66 distinct also make it a road that encourages a slower travel pace and leaves its history incredibly visible. The interstate highways that replaced it have none of these features. I think that's part of the reason why people still care about and keep driving along Route 66 long after it was decommissioned. Route 66 is such a weird and wonderful road, but for all its kitsch, it's the place to really experience what it means to enjoy the journey.

## Links to learn more

**Song: Get Your Kicks on Route 66**
<youtu.be/FdER71cjmKA>
**Cars (2006 Disney Pixar Movie)**
<imdb.com/title/tt0317219>
**Route 66 Info (National Park Service)**
<nps.gov/articles/000/route-66-national.htm>
**Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**
<illinoisroute66.org>
**Route 66 History – NH Route 66 Federation**
<national66.org/pages/route-66-history>
**SmugMug Route 66 Photo Galleries**
<illinoisroute66.smugmug.com>
**Illinois Route 66 Centennial Celebration**
<dceo.illinois.gov/events/route66centennial.html>

### Litchfield, Illinois

<visitlitchfield.com>
**Ariston Café**
<ariston-cafe.com>
**Sky View Drive In Theatre**
<visitlitchfield.com/things-to-do/789/sky-view-drive>
**Jubelt's Bakery**
<jubelts.com>
**Litchfield Museum**
<http://litchfieldmuseum.org>

### Other Route 66 Towns

**Henry's Rabbit Ranch in Staunton, IL**
<http://henrysroute66.com>
**Soulsby's Service Station in Mt. Olive, IL**
<nps.gov/places/soulsby-service-station.htm>

### Springfield, Illinois

**Cozy Dog Drive In**
<cozydogdrivein.com>
**Lauderbach Giant Muffler Man**
<lauterbachtire.com>

### Lincoln Home

**Lincoln Home National Historic Site**
<nps.gov/liho>
**Frank Leslie's Illistrated Newspaper**
<nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/drawings.htm>

### Emily Links:

**Mount Prospect Historical Society**
<mtphist.org>
**History in the Seams (while @ MCHS)**
<marquettehistorians.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/history-in-the-seams>
**Emily's Walking Anachronism Blog**
<facebook.com/thewalkinganachronism>

Jan Knight interview (continued from page 3)

This house I got real interested in, because I was doing family genealogy and I wanted to track down what the house had to offer me. The people we bought the house from gave me several of the old deeds. Most of the people mentioned in these documents are buried in a cemetery two miles down Ringwood Road in Carr-Harrison Cemetery or right in the town Cemetery. Some of the names included are Bradley, Francisco, Harrison, Stevens, and Crandall. It was kind of hearsay that the house was once a lodging place or hotel. If it were absolutely true, there was a widow that owned it - Matilda Crandall. It was known as the Crandall Lot for a long time; from 1861 till the Harrisons took ownership. I kind of thought that's how Matilda made her living, by taking in boarders. There is some evidence of that upstairs. I imagine that the five bay windows that go all the way across based on the floorboards and doors probably meant one big area where you could get cheaper rent if you were sleeping in a bed with somebody else near you. I don't know about the other two bedrooms that are upstairs. Maybe one of them would have been hers. There are no closets or lighting original to the house. All the rooms had multiple layers of wallpaper with paint over it. It took me years to remove all that to redecorate."

This second (older) photo above was given to me by the Shepards, who we bought the house from. It shows a barn where the old garage was. That garage was replaced by the current shop building in 1994.

Jim Pearson, who knew everything about Ringwood, told us that the whole town turned out one time to watch when the barn was lowered. The roof and bay and everything were lowered until it was garage height, which is what it was when we came here. We kind of believed him because the big joists that went from top to bottom were fitted together part way up. It would make sense to have a barn when you had boarders.

One novelty we found in the old garage were outhouse seats. Two, plus a lower one for kids, added by George Shepard. He and his wife Ruby lived here for 50 years, from 1923-1973. Another novelty was a very moist area where there were newt salamanders living in the basement of the house. The kids loved to show their company where they could be found. When we finally dried up that spot, the kids caught all the newts in a bucket and took them to the well in the local cemetery where they could be happy.

It was also rumored that this was a halfway station between Chicago and Lake Geneva. Perhaps like a stage stop. One support for that is part of the basement ceiling is lath and plaster which is pretty odd if you didn't have people living down there. The door to the outside had glass, so it could have been a public entrance.

One of our neighbors, Loren Harrison, had chickens so our son, Seth, decided he wanted chickens too. He was in elementary school at that time. We had a chicken coop and cleaned out all the refuse that was in there. Seth found some old wire down by the railroad tracks. That was a place okay to dig. He came back up and put a yard around part of the chicken coop. Then he went over to Loren's house with some allowance money.

Pretty soon, he came back riding his bike with a gunny sack over his shoulder. Loren had sold him six chickens. We learned a lot. We learned that they liked to roam around in the yard and eat all the flowers that I had planted. In the evening, I'd have to hose off the yard near the door so we wouldn't slip in stuff. They got trained pretty well. If they heard the back door open up or close, they'd come running from everywhere hoping somebody would give them something to eat. We did collect a variety of eggs - some colored, depending on which breed of chicken laid it.

A couple of other things that are interesting about the house. All the rooms upstairs had old linoleum - really old. I ended up getting a reference book about linoleum and believe most of it dated to the late 1800's. Some rooms had several layers. The asbestos issue with linoleum doesn't come into play in the way it was manufactured until much later. Four of the five rooms upstairs still have linoleum, including a runner down the hallway."

## LANDMARK SCHOOL

"I was only in Ringwood three years before I took a job at Landmark School in McHenry. Al Boeldt was the principal at the time. We kept in touch later because he came to our museum in Union with his barbershop quartet after retirement.

Al was really good about telling people how to do the bell ringing. You just hang onto the rope and let it go up and get a good rhythm going. Al pulled the rope down, Seth glommed on, and up he went with feet right off the floor. Seth and I managed to ring the Landmark bell every year for about fifteen, adding one more ring each year.

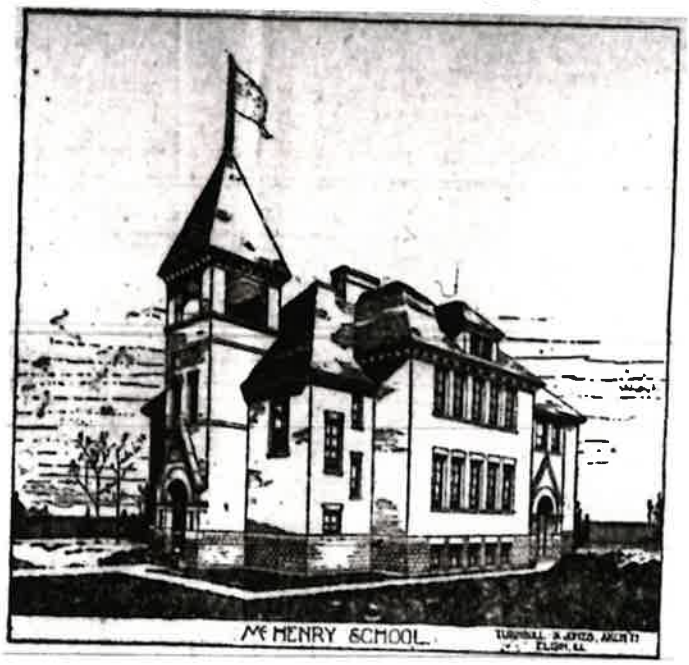
Eventually school board member and McHenry merchant Chris Cardamone joined in. I finally got to where I'd call the police station ahead of time and let them know "Yes, this is the lady who called you last year – I'll be ringing the bell, so you know it isn't a break-in or anything."

America's Bicentennial was celebrated in 1976, a very big deal for the country (on July 4th 1976, our own McHenry County History Museum opened to the public for the first time). *Former* President Carter wanted all the bells in the nation to ring at one o'clock on July 4th, so everybody was to take a turn ringing the Landmark School bell until we got to 200 rings."

*This photo shows President Gerald Ford, with Bicentennial Administrator John Warner, on the USS Forrestal deck, starting nationwide bell ringing on July 4, 1976.*

"Landmark School had been totally renovated to be a kindergarten building, probably after 1967 public hearings to save the building. Even the stair risers are shorter. There were five classrooms upstairs, three on the main floor, and two classrooms in the basement. They all had remodeled bathrooms - short little toilets because someone in their wisdom thought all these little kids can't have regular size. I don't know why someone didn't tell them the kids have regular sized toilets at home and they have regular size stairs at home! All the floors that were described in a newspaper article as special pine when the school opened (in 1894) were now to be carpeted.

My room, so called as I was being added as a special education learning disabilities person, didn't really exist, so they gave me the space above the front door. If you look at the building you will see that there are two windows above the front door. That was my space. It had a stairway down to the first floor and the another to get to the basement and then it had four doors in this totally little spot too. It was a challenge to figure out where to put a desk or what to do with anything but we turned it into something fun. The doorway up to the bell tower is also in that room. We knew how to get up there.




When I was there, there were three first grades on the first floor. The basement had two classrooms and upstairs were five kindergarten classrooms. As the population grew, there were two kindergarten classrooms across the street in a house called the "White House". Kathy Hughes and Marlene Goetchall were teaching over there. In the main building we had teachers Jane Thomas, Janet Byrnes, Alice McDonald, Martha Kangas, and Ruth Buckner. We always laughed that Ruth backed into the fire hydrant so many times trying to get out of the parking lot it should be painted as the Buckner memorial fire plug. First grade teachers included Janet Cody and Mary Ellen Karp.

I don't recall any natural disaster occurrences while I was there but the one thing I do remember is when the Iran Hostage situation was over on January 20,1981, these prisoners had been held for 444 days. When we found out they were freed, we got all the kids out and rang the bell 444 times. The kids would stand outside and when it was time for another class to come in, they would line up and ring the bell, go down the stairway and another class would come in. The rest were standing outside watching. It was very emotional.

Though people often saw bats flying out of Landmark's chimney I never saw one. I think in one of the classrooms they found one that might have made its way down. But you take a four-story building with an open bell tower high in the air, you will get bats in there.

I didn't really retire from Landmark School. At one point in 1986 or so, the school was closed for a couple of years because the State Fire Marshal realized that the fire code did not allow little kids to be on anything other than a ground floor. That left Landmark with only three classrooms that could be used. So the school was closed and the students and teachers were dispersed to other schools.

I then taught at McHenry's Valley View School for ten years. I enjoyed being there too. I really branched out, teaching not just kindergarten or 1st grade students. Usually I had 2nd and 3rd. Once in a while I'd have a 4th or 5th grader. They would come to my room for 30 to 45 minutes either in a group or once in a while by themselves, to work on special reading or math or spelling kinds of problems.

As for how Landmark's fate is being discussed now, I realize that finances are such that it would be impossible, I guess, at this point to keep it up to code or competitive with other school buildings. But it is such an icon for the city that I would hope somebody would have thought to rehab it as office space, (maybe) for District 15. I liked all my years in McHenry."

## VOLUNTEERING / QUILTS

"My husband had already retired from teaching, but was working on woodworking projects in our new shop building. He enjoyed going to fill in at the Museum's one-room-school as teacher Hiram Knickerbocker. So, I decided maybe I could get over to the museum in Union to learn how to quilt. I had been there for a program one time and saw this absolutely beautiful blue and white quilt. It was the 2003 McHenry County Paver quilt, dedicated to Nancy Fike. Oh, if I could only learn to do that! By the time I was actually able to get over, that quilt was finished and raffled off. The Heritage Quilters have been raffling off quilts since 1980! But there was another quilt on the quilt frame and there was a nice group of ladies who were chatting about everything from the weather to how the thimble fit that day because it was humid. They just made me feel welcome and I stayed for a long time, twenty years and counting!

After the 2006 quilt was planned, Arlen Bird thought she wouldn't be the planner anymore. Sue Stanek took over for five years. During her tenure, the 2009 quilt turned out to be an all-time favorite - a red and white quilt we named 'Garnets for Mrs. Lincoln.' The museum even used that pattern to print cloth tote bags to sell in its gift shop!

I remember you, Nancy Fike, standing out by the door suggesting that I would take it over, but I couldn't do it by myself. If someone was willing to take a chance on me and work as a committee - I can't let this die. So I started out and did the planning from 2012 to 2016. After that, the planning has been done by committee or whoever presents an idea we all like. We've used up fabrics that were donated and that kind of pushes the pattern to what we might do depending on color and that kind of thing. Even the pattern lines that you are going to sew into the fabric, those patterns are from actual quilting stencils brought in and people can say what looks best on a block. A completed quilt is then appraised, dedicated and labeled. Each person who has a quilt dedicated to them is chosen by the Heritage Quilters for some outstanding service or years of service to the Museum. Each quilt is appraised at several thousand dollars and the raffle raises many dollars for the Museum's educational programs."

## REFLECTIONS

"I think things have changed so much now. Not only politically with the country being as divided. It seems like there is so much acrimony. You have to be all for something which puts you against something else. There doesn't seem to be a lot of accommodation for other people's opinions. That always bothers me. Another change is how the education field has changed. Not only because of the pandemic and those years of being at home with virtual learning. The kids are so dependent on their phones and media. That worries me some. I remember way back when I was at Landmark School people were worried about the kids and their handwriting as early as first grade because they didn't know if their eyes had developed sufficiently to do a lot of paperwork. So, learning the alphabet from the chalkboard was OK. Now we have people trying to push pencils into hands when kids are 18 months old and know their alphabet by the time they are 2 or 3.

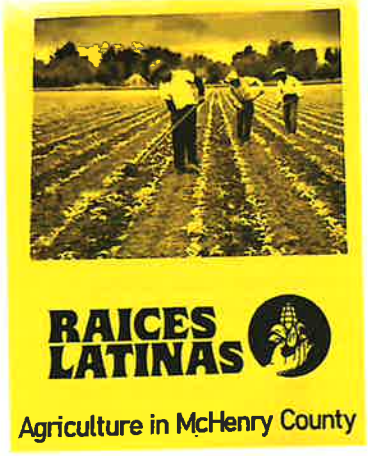
Things just seem hurried. Life is hurried. I look back to my kids running out the door and playing in the yard chasing chickens or the dogs and horses next door. I have an old fog horn (from an old boat)

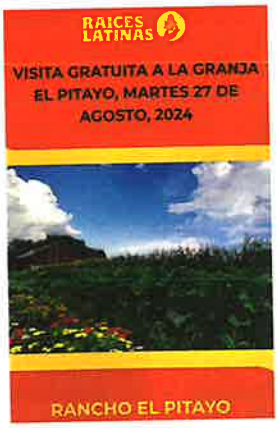
Jan Knight interview (continued from page 7)

that I would blow when it was time to come home for lunch. Idyllic, and actually my kids mention that those were the good times even if you went upstairs in the house and there was frost on the walls because it was 20 degrees below and we didn't have enough electricity - the old knob and tube didn't go up to their bedrooms, so they couldn't have an electric blanket. They made it.

Our son Steve was always fascinated by huge trucks and semis. He continues to work as a heavy equipment operator. He is married and has an adult son, also married. Sarah caught the teacher gene and has worked in a school setting most of her working life. She currently lives near her two adult children in Wisconsin. Seth caught the military gene from his dad and served two tours in the Navy. His work life includes stone, brick, and metal monument restorations. He currently lives in Pennsylvania with his wife. My stepdaughter Terri lives in Michigan, near her two children and works her career as an RN. I am blessed with a great family.

On a day like this with the sun out and all the trees budding It seems like life will be 'OK'. Some of us of a certain age, though, just can't see how all of the pieces will fall into place." ❧



## ¿Raíces latinas? (Latin Roots)

McHenry County's rich agricultural history is not complete without acknowledging the Latino/Latine community's contribution to it. The goal of the Raices Latinas project is to bring residents together to leam about and celebrate these contributions through educational, collaborative, and storytelling community events.

**The McHenry County Historical Society is a partner in this effort.**

**The images at left were captured at the free August 27th Farm Tour held at RANCHO EL PITAYO, near Marengo, attended by well over 100 people.**

At all Raices Latinas events, there is hope to meet people who have a story to tell. "We want to bring people's stories to light." said Zitlali Adame, Project Coordinator. "We hope people who currently farm, or have farming in their family history, will attend these events and share their experiences in agriculture, past and present." In the future, we see these stories - and any photographs, documents, or letters we can find - as part of an exhibit at the McHenry County Historical Society. Or, if preferred, we can simply archive them.

Six organizations are partnering on the project, including:

* **Mano a Mano Family Resource Center**
* **Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project**
* **Illinois Migrant Council**
* **McHenry County Historical Society**
* **Center for Agrarian Learning at McHenry County College**
* **The Land Conservancy of McHenry County**

*Raices Latinas: Agriculture in McHenry County is funded by the Community Foundation for McHenry County's Transformational Grant.*

**LEARN MUCH MORE HERE: <raceslatinasmc.org>**

47th Annual CIDER FEST - October 6th - 10am-2pm

# Interview with Nancy Fike (part 2)

**BY BOB FRENZ**

*Nancy Fike and I have known each other since we were both young teachers in Huntley District #158 in the early 1970's. In the Fall of 2023, we sat down to converse on her long career first as a volunteer, then a board member, officer, and finally as Administrator of the McHenry County Historical Society. Nancy did not previously see the questions I posed to her; therefore, her responses obviously reflect a great deal of prior thought and reflection on her part. My hope is that readers will find our conversation helpful in not only understanding the beginnings of the Society, but also in preparing for its future.*

**Part One appeared in Tracer 178, ending with:**

RF – Do you remember what year it was that you were hired?

NF – I remember exactly. It was in March of 1981.

**Part Two (conclusion) starts here.**

RF – O.K. So, at that time you were still teaching?

NF – No, our daughter Leigh was born in 1977 so I took a year off, maternity leave from Huntley in '77-'78 and then did a very short stint trying to do a rural mail carrier out of the McHenry office. [Had] a stick shift van which was not a good idea and hired right around Christmas which was definitely not a good idea. So, then I went back to Huntley [to teach] for a year but then, by that time, I was very involved with the historical society. And, I should mention that the Board, which I sat on, was considering having a woman by the name of Nancy Petzelt from Algonquin share the role and be co-Administrators. And, I said absolutely not. You get two people in there and just one job – it would just not work out.

RF – Sure

NF – They hired me, probably, because I had the degrees in history.

RF – O.K. What were your early goals as Administrator? Any innovations that you thought of putting in?

NF – I think my biggest goal was to make us known in the county; so that the Historical Society would succeed. So, the things I did were getting more volunteers [and] doing a great deal of publicity in the newspapers in those days. And, they were very good about putting things in. We ran a series of programs on Sunday afternoons. We were only open on Wednesdays and Sundays. And, so on Sunday afternoons all during the summer when we were open I made sure we had some sort of program. Also, things like Spring Grove Day, McHenry Day, or Woodstock Day. And, that way we could get people to come out from those areas and there would be something historical to come for. And, I remember we worked closely with the townships. We would have "Township Free" days. And, they were very supportive. They were financially supportive of the museum; all of them were, really.

Bob Frenz retired from teaching history at Huntley High School and is a long-time volunteer at MCHS. He is President of the Society and an author – or co-author – of two books and numerous articles for the Tracer and other journals.

RF – Good. You and I talked earlier about the Sampler Series. Was that a part of these programs or was that something else you put in?

NF – No, this was something else. And, I think … Connie Parenti and I. They had an antique shop in their Harley Wayne home there [in Union]. And, you know, [they could tell] what they knew about certain things and I asked them to [present a program].

RF – Those early meetings in the music room – it became the library, now it's the stacks. What were some of the early difficulties? I think you mentioned the heat and how cold the building was.

NF – Well, you know when you adapt a building that wasn't designed for certain things and you try to make it into one, you run into problems and heat was a major one as was insulation. There really wasn't any. The warmest room that could accommodate a group of people, when I started, was in the music room, now the stacks of the museum. I'd clear out all the display tables and what not, and set up chairs in there. And, so we'd hold them in there and it was always cold. For many years that's where we had to hold the Sampler Series starting with the Parenti's and their 8 weeks, and each week would be a different thing they would talk about. And, both Leo and Connie had their specialties. Anyways, after one of the Series one of the attendees who happened to be Jo Oakley from Marengo came up to me afterward and tapped me on the shoulder and said "Mind if I do something for the Society?" And, I said (ha, ha, ha) "heck no. What do you want to do?" She said, "How about if I pay for carpeting for the Music Room because the floors were so damn cold." You just froze yourself in there and that was the warmest room to work in. I can add something to that. Our office at that time was in the Accession Room and the Accession Room had no windows and the walls were thick. You never knew what was going on. It could be a blizzard and you wouldn't know it. And, again a knock on the door. A woman by the name of Elsie Hildebrand, whose husband became our Treasurer, knocked on the door. The wind was howling and the snow was blowing. She said, "We've got blizzard conditions out there. You'd better get out of here." We had no clue. We were so confined in that little room.

RF – Sure, sure.

NF – The building also had bats. Kept getting these little brown bats. And, I can remember a couple of funny incidents. I remember one great incident with bats. A volunteer, a great funny lady by the name of Mary Tittle. Her daughter, Cindy Thompson, used to help Grace Moline with exhibits. Well, her mother started her coming over here and she was a funny lady. She was so droll. You know, she took things so matter-of-factly. Well, here she is sitting in the office – what is now the office – and she's sitting at the lunch table going through the newspapers clipping out articles. Which is one thing we did based on what Dorothy had started. And, we're in there and, of course, there is a low ceiling there. All of a sudden a bat comes flying and all of us were "oh, oh!" We're all ducking under the table you know. Just a little tiny bat and we're all trying to figure out how to get it out of there. And, without hardly a break in her movement, Mary wraps up her newspaper, folds it, sights him, and wings it up at him and knocks him out of the air. Whereupon I ran and grabbed the coffee can I kept under the sink to capture these things, flopped him in there, slid the lid on, and ran him outside where he probably did a U-turn and promptly came back in. [Laughter]

RF – Great stories. These are great stories.

NF – We also had a pigeon problem. When I first started working there, there was a flock – a herd I should maybe say – of pigeons that would fly from the museum entry roof across the street to Noble's garage. And, then they would fly back again. Well, it was like kamikaze lane trying to get into the museum.

RF – Sure

NF – I got a telephone call from some guy – I don't know what he was but he offered to eliminate our pigeon problem. I'm not sure I wanted to know what that meant. But, anyway, he shows up at a Board meeting for the village [of Union] to ask if he could eliminate the pigeons. "Bam, bam, bam." Next thing I know [and] I hadn't been on the job a month when I get a call from a radio station in Elgin because they had a reporter at the board meeting covering the board meeting for the village. And, the question right off the bat is "How do you feel about the slaughter of pigeons?" What (laughter)? So, we have had our issues.

RF – Wow! I guess. Sounds like something out of an Alfred Hitchcock movie. So, let me ask you when additional staff were added and what positions and individuals?

NF – Well, the … running that place and doing everything from maintenance and cleaning toilets and putting in exhibits and doing research when people needed help was really more than a one person operation. We got by for many years very successfully with volunteers answering the telephone and calling volunteers. In fact, even when I left we had a volunteer coordinator who was a volunteer and doing a swell job. But, anyways, one thing I was not qualified for was the exhibits. I knew the history: I knew how to contact people with publicity. I wasn't afraid to go and ask people for money but I really wasn't good at design. And, so for the first position that I started insisting that we hire was for a Curator and so were fortunate in that Grace Moline who lived in Crystal Lake had started volunteering for the Society and she had been a teacher down in I believe, in Hinsdale. She taught history to the hearing impaired. After she got out of the teaching field she went to … I can't think of the name of the place. It's a well- known art and design school in Chicago. And, graduated from that and wanted to do work in that kind of a field – interior design. And, you know, she had volunteered [at MCHS]. She worked well and she was willing to do almost anything. So, Grace was the first one we hired.

RF – And, what about the position of Office Manager? Had that been done? I think you mentioned that that was on sort of a volunteer basis? And, then

Nancy Fike interview (continued from page 9)

when was this position added?

NF – Well, for a lot of years we had a wonderful group of volunteers that would take particular days to come in. And, I hesitate to mention names because I might leave people out. Needless to say, everybody was doing just fine. We hired an Office Manager probably in the late 80's and the first Office Manager again came from someone who had volunteered at the Society. And, she was a young gal by the name of Ann Bormett. She lived in Huntley at the time and she came in and took the role of Office Manager. Now, you've got to remember when you say Office Manager or Curator or Administrator, really we all shuffled around and did all kinds of jobs that wouldn't be listed in a job description. So, Ann was one of those individuals who would do that. And, Ann eventually became our collective memory when neither Grace or I could remember something, we could always count on Ann, you know, to remember and put us straight. All of these people we hired having come from being volunteers themselves, they knew the value of volunteers. And, they respected them and there was really no distinction between staff and volunteers. There was no pecking order, really; we just worked as a team. Whatever needed to be done, we all pitched in and did it.

RF – And, what about Nancy Irwin? When did she come board?

NF – Oh, she could probably tell you better than I can. Nancy Irwin came in after Nancy Roozee left. No, wait a minute.

RF – Do you mean Ann?

NF – Yes, when Ann left after the birth of her son, Ed; then we hired Nancy Irwin. Nancy was from Woodstock and do you see a trend here? Nancy was a long- time volunteer and so she just stepped into the office and very smoothly and did a lot of calling for volunteers. Again, it was pretty much a team effort.

RF – Good, and what can you remember about moving the [Gannon] cabin and [West Harmony] school to the campus?

NF – How many hours do you have, Bob?

RF – In a couple hundred words or less.

NF – Well, we moved the cabin – it had been out at the [Woodstock] Fairgrounds. That was the first move it made was to the Fairgrounds [from its original site in Grafton Twp.]. Then it was moved to the Society in … let's see I was there in '81 [conversation lost].

RF – What was the idea of moving the cabin and school to the museum campus? You must have had some plan in mind.

NF – Actually, the idea for moving the cabin to the museum originated with Dorothy. Now we had a site: we weren't renting rooms in a place in Woodstock. We had grounds so there was room to bring it over and keep it one area. So, I think it was about 1978 that Dorothy began prodding the board to save money to move the building. And, I think she worked with Scherf Builders and Movers from Barrington. She knew them; Dorothy knew everybody. It was moved out to the museum and stabilized and like I said the purpose being now we had a place where we could actually preserve it. And, you know, if it's way off some place where you don't have a lot of help and money you want to bring these things in where you can actually work on them. So, that's why it was brought over there [to Union] and for a long time it was stabilized and that was it. By the end of the 1980's it was in pretty decrepit condition. It was in the 1990's that we got a crew together and through a donation from Mrs. Dike [of Huntley] we were able to hire a professional and, again, with all volunteers we were able to bring it up to quality.

RF – Was the same theory then behind moving the school to the Union campus?

NF – The theory behind moving the school there was to bolster the belief that the most important job of a county historical society was education. We wanted to educate people as to the importance of bringing history on into the future. It's a foundation but it's also the basis for a lot of decision making we make now and will make in the future. The way to do that is to start young and to do that you need to have a strong educational program which meant getting kids out to the museum. And, using that schoolhouse as a teaching facility. It was wonderful.

RF – Up until Covid and that put an end to that.

NF – Yes, Covid has changed everything. A historical phenomenon like 9/11.

RF – One more question about buildings. What can you tell us was behind the decision to build the McEachren Addition? In the early 1990's.

NF – Space. We knew we had to enlarge the museum. At that time we had no outside storage areas. The heavy farm equipment we could still put out in various barns around the county. But if we wanted to be able to grow and collect we were just going to have to have more room. We considered cutting off our collecting up to the year 1976 thinking it was kind of one of those years that would be a significant year. Quickly we realized that that didn't make any sense at all. History doesn't stop. You can't. You have to continue on. So, that was the reasoning. And, once again, Dorothy with her donation and also the Dike's – Mrs. Dike again. So, we made a friend there. You know, fund raising and asking people for money … you've got to know your people. You've got to know what will interest them; what will draw them to you. You can't be afraid to ask them for something very specific.

RF – Right

NF – Anything I got moneywise; it wasn't so much writing grants because I didn't have the time to do that. I did write them but certainly not a lot of them. If we needed something and I could prove my case I could go into the community that we are serving and contact people. I was never disappointed. Never. Maybe I didn't ask enough, but … .

RF – O.K. We've touched on a lot of this. But, let me ask you why the preservation of our county's history is so important?

NF – I think that history is one of those tools that give people a foundation. And for most people it's what they recognize. What they see. I mean they're not going to study history when you're busy raising a family and trying to make a living. But, if you recognize the "guideposts" which are in the older structures, the barns, the township halls, the country churches, old downtown areas … . That gives you your "grounding point." You know if everything becomes a big box store then all you've got is City No. 1, City No. 2, City No. 3. They're all the same. You have to look to find your safe spot. And, I think knowing your history makes people better citizens. You know they have a stake in their community. They're the ones that tend to vote, the ones that will serve on committees. I just think it makes for a kinder people.

RF – We could use that nowadays.

NF – Yes, we can use it. If we recognize the fact that there were people that came before us and had their struggles and worked together. And, history does that. Now it's just power.

RF – It must be disappointing then to you to see some of these structures coming down in recent years.

NF – It does. It bothers me. Again, you know, it's change. Change is uncomfortable. Your commercial districts … you're not going to see that anymore. People have changed their buying patterns. This pandemic – we should all be documenting what it was like to go through. Because we're going to need that knowledge. Same as when the people during the flu epidemic, you know, after World War 1. People before them – all the cholera. We need to find how they handled and coped with the change. You're not going to see banks anymore. People aren't going to banks. So, architecture is being impacted. And, somebody needs to document that and keep records. That's the job of a historical society.

**Tracer History Part 4**
**(will appear in our next issue)**

## From your Tracer Editor

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*Please keep your Tracer input rolling in!*

I appreciate everyone's continued input. To learn more about our quarterly journal's rich history, and what I'm planning for the future, please refer back to what I said in issues #177 & #178. We have extras.

Honoring our Society's founders, by bringing their voices back to new Tracer pages is my ongoing goal.

With your help, our focus on local history will continue to evolve for you to enjoy. And, I'm looking for more folks to help with back issue indexing and to volunteer in our Institutional Archives workroom (our collection of materials holding much of the rich 61 year history of our own Society & Museum). To learn more, please visit this page online:

<volunteermatch.org/search/opp3816923.jsp>

Also, please remember the Tracer is your opportunity get your own local history work published.

RF – O.K. I just have a few more questions. What was your greatest challenge as Administrator?

NF – Genealogists. [Laughter]

RF – Why was that?

NF – Because if you tell a genealogist the first thing, they knew there had to be a heck of a lot more. And, when you're short of help, that becomes a major issue. And, by the way … . Oh, forget that.

RF – All right. What were your proudest accomplishments?

NF – This is a hard one for me. There are things like all of the buildings that we saved on original sites as guideposts so that when people look through McHenry County they can see the source of government, the source of their religions, the source of their schools – that makes me proud. Other accomplishments [include] seeing the things that were accomplished by people like Grace Moline who with very little money and the exhibits she put forward. It's also in the fact that seeing people from all over the county find a common thing they can work on together and volunteer efforts by people like Bill Dysart, for example, that would come over here. And, people like Hank Oleson and Otis Cripe. People who gave their time and commitment to make this a successful venture. I also, as an educator, I was also extremely proud of the education program that we developed.

RF – O.K. Well, I think we're kind of getting into that – what were some of your favorite memories?

NF – You know, my favorite memories were always connected with the people we worked with – the lunchroom gatherings when we told the most obnoxious, disgusting stories.

RF – And, who was the instigator of those?

NF – I have no idea.

RF – Oh, yeah? I have an idea. [Laughter]

NF - Oh, and just to watch the expression on Grace's face! "Oh, you're not going to talk about that!" O.K. What was the question again?

RF – Favorite memories.

NF – Halloween Hauntings. My favorite memories always revolve around laughing and goofy things we pulled on people, the human aspect. Coming together, having a good time while doing good things.

RF – You mentioned the Halloween Hauntings. That was my first day at the museum and you were all dressed up in costume.

continued on page 12

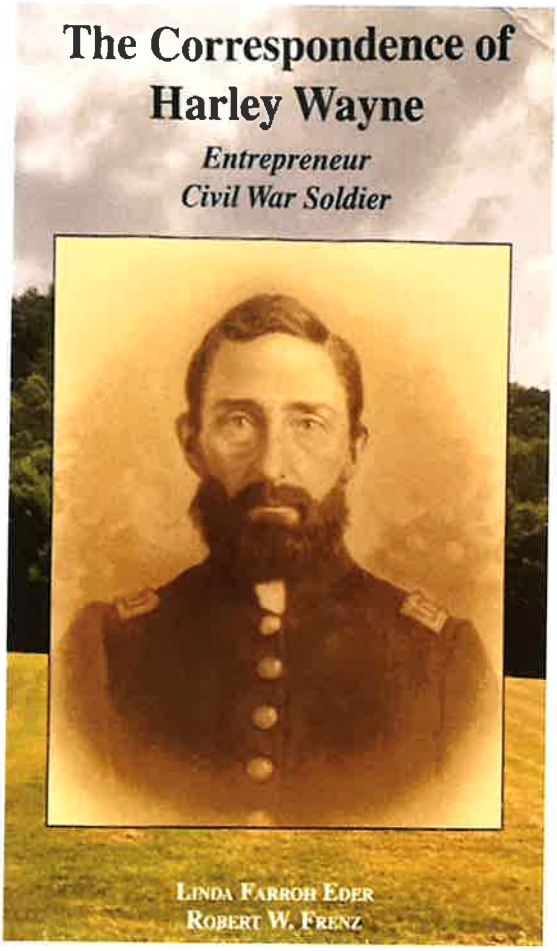
# Local History Book Review

BY DON ROSE

*To help expand the Tracer's focus, here's the second in my series of local history-oriented book reviews. Again, I invite you, as one of our loyal (or brand new!) readers, to send in **your** written work, including your personal family history stories, popular themes like locally historic scandal & intrigue, what you've discovered about your property, local history research you've found amazing or fascinating, oral histories from McHenry County residents you've known or learned about, and of course, book reviews like this one. **You need not be a skilled writer to submit.** This offer is open to all our readers.*

## The Correspondence of Harley Wayne

**© 2023, by Linda Farroh Eder and Robert W. Frenz**




This book is a fascinating read, researched with true passion and dedication drawn from Eder and Frenz's focus on the material they've uncovered. It is illustrated extensively with photographs, maps, scanned documents, receipts and newspaper clippings. Copies are available from our museum. Bob's talk about Harley was in August.

Civil War history is covered in a large number of popular printed books as well as extensively online. This image is used with permission from <digital.lib.niu.edu/illinois>

McHenry County's Civil War Roundtable, established in 1997 has an active presence here: <facebook.com/groups/950264922280555> They have been involved with cemetery upkeep, restoration of artifacts and the granting of scholarships, gathering most months at the Woodstock Public Library to enjoy presentations and to discuss various aspects of the Civil War in America, often about McHenry County's involvement.

It's clear many hours were spent by these authors, pouring over and meticulously transcribing Harley Wayne's letters and those of his friends, family and others. Their stories unfold in captivating detail within the book's pages.

In the preface, Frenz talks of how he first "met" Harley Wayne:

*"As a young college student, our Civil War class was assigned to research a subject of local interest. After spending a morning reading microfilm copies of the Woodstock, Illinois Sentinel (established in 1857), I discovered an organization known as the Wide Awakes which supported the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. I also noticed that much was written about the leader (known as a Captain) of the local group -- a certain Harley Wayne of Union..."*

[Union is also the home to the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum]

*"...Now, over a half-century later, I am still fascinated by a man who at age 20 left his parents to embark on a difficult journey to Illinois and then at age 38 left his wife and child to begin an even more perilous campaign to help save the union."*

Co-Author Eder continues:

*"Unlike Bob, I grew up knowing the Harley Wayne story since my grandmother Esther Bishop Britton had lived with her cousin Charles Wayne, his wife Mary and mother Ellen ... Ellen was Harley's wife and keeper of his story. After Mary Wayne died in 1940, Esther inherited the Harley Wayne letter collection ... and much of the Wayne furniture from the house in Union. Most of the letters in this book came from that source ... there are instances where we had to make an educated guess about the words we found. A number of writers spelled phonetically and did not use punctuation."*

The book includes a well put together, extensive index and, within seven chapters, thirty-nine pages about The Wayne Family, thirty-five pages about his Friends, twenty-four pages of Business Letters, eight pages covering his time in Springfield, fifty-one pages penned during the Civil War, and concluding with twelve pages focused on his wife Ellen and son Charley, and the author's thoughful Epilogue. I recommend this book highly, not only because is covers people who lived right here in our museum's home town, but because it's a great read.

Nancy Fike Interview (continued from page 10)

NF – Oh, sure.

RF – I was wondering what I had gotten myself into [laughter]. O.K., good. Any regrets that you have? Anything that you think you could have accomplished but didn't?

NF – There's always regrets. A personal regret is … you know I always loved the Society and I would have worked there even if I hadn't been paid. It was that kind of place. And, I regret that at 70, you know, I figured that I'm at the top of my game. It really ought to be somebody else that adds their perspective to it. That … it's time to turn it over. So, I regret that my time had come, because even now I do miss it but I never wanted to feel that I was going to micromanage anything. So, I just walked away. That was my decision – just to walk away. So, I regret …

RF – You regret having left when you did?

NF – I regret the fact. Yeah, I do. I mean I loved it. But I felt it was time for somebody else. Hey, I was glad I had people so I didn't have to learn the new technology. I knew we needed it and I got it started. I personally just didn't want to do it myself and I'm still so stubborn that I don't do it.

RF – O.K. What you are saying is absolutely true. It was a people friendly place. It was always a pleasure to go there. And, worked with great people.

NF – Yes, and from all over.

RF – You had a lot to do with that. You made that possible. It was that kind of a welcoming place. That's what I remember when I first came there. O.K. Just a couple more questions. What projects have you been involved in since you retired?

NF – Well, I've been working here [McHenry] for the last year with a group trying to get local history into the school curriculum at the junior high and high school level. I'm also now … because I'm a researcher at heart, I'm going to City Hall in McHenry once a week and going into the records of the City Council and the ordinances starting right around the First World War and up to World War Two to see what issues in a city like McHenry were foremost at particular times in history. Then I'll write something up. When the Town Club morphed into another restaurant/ bar – it was the first [McHenry] County Courthouse. I've been keeping tabs on that. Actually, all we have left of that is the footprint to be very honest with you. There was a house next door to it – the B B Brown house – that was torn down and along with people like Pat Wirz and Jeff Varda, we went in there and we documented the house before it went down and did a write up of its history and I interviewed one of the people who lived there. B B Brown was the one who built the log cabin on the site of the Riverside Hotel, which was built in 1864. And, before that it was B B Brown's Tavern. He had Stephen A. Douglas come to McHenry and that's where he entertained everybody. He was running for the U.S. Senate for the first time. Well, anyways I documented it.

RF – What is the future of the McHenry County Historical Society as you see it and any advice you can give to the current generation of leaders and volunteers at MCHS?

NF – Well, I'll never stop believing that history has a place. You have to remain relevant. You have to market. It has to be relevant and kept relevant. And, you have to market. Possible suggestion on that is, you know every organization that is developed … and, by the way, there are a lot more 501 c3's out there, everything you can imagine has now developed into a 501 c3. There's a lot of competition for people's time at a time when people don't think they have time. They're worried about their cost of living and everything else but this is a part of history. This is the time we're going through. To be documented to better prepare us for the next time these pandemics and economic things; getting close to war. Climate. Education is power and that is what we're good at. What we're not good at is marketing ourselves, not so much based upon how old … . We want to get younger people into the organization and so will we do for younger people? Don't market that way. Market in terms of what will draw somebody to us. Old and young people have an interest in the environment. So, environmental outfits do a swell job of getting people involved. What is that … what are the things we can sell best to various people? What is it that they want out of us that we can recognize and then go ahead and provide? All of it based upon what we do. If the only place you can see your history is in a museum, then we have failed. Our job is broader than that. That's a showplace. That's a sampling. What we need to do is make better citizens. Connect them to what we can offer and that is the tenets that go back in time. What we learn in the past and that's going to help us now and in the future. A couple of things we could do is start focus groups like they do in politics. Develop a good set of what it is that we are best designed to do and then go out and get a sampling of people in the county. Pull them together and ask them. Most of them haven't thought about it but if you phrase the questions right maybe you'll get some help and truly broaden the support.

RF – O.K. Do you have anything you would like to add to what we have talked about here? Any final thoughts?

NF – You know, after all the years I spent there and all the people I met, I only recall but one individual that I probably would have fired, volunteer or not. This is very personal. You know, not many people have the wonderful opportunity to be paid for something that they would have done without being paid. I just consider myself the luckiest person (now I'm going to get teary eyed) to have found a home. I wanted to grow. I wanted to succeed. I wanted it to be a home – like it was for me – for other people.

RF – Sure. It was for a lot of people. I know it was when I left teaching.

NF – That's right. And how many people are lucky enough?

RF – Absolutely. Thank you very much. It was great talking to you today. I'm sure our readers will greatly enjoy it.

NF – Shall we end with a disgusting lunch story or something?

RF – No! Let's not. Well, thank you very much, Nancy.

*Photos on this page*

*Above left, Nancy outside our Gannon Log Cabin*

*At right, a Nancy moment from our Society's 50th Anniversary at the Starline Factory in Harvard (2013)*

**Second Edition!**

*More* Quilts of the **HERITAGE QUILTERS**

Presented by
The McHenry County Historical Society
Union, Illinois

Since 1987, the **Heritage Quilters** have been very generous with their time and talents, making unique, hand-sewn quilts to benefit our society.

Their first quilt history book (now sold out) was published in 2011. This second edition, expanded to a full 48 pages, includes photographs of their twelve latest quilts and a new detailed narrative by **Jan Knight** (interviewed by Nancy Fike in this issue), to help commemorate their dedicated ongoing work. This edition is fascinating, and will again become a collector's item.

To purchase your own copy, call our office, visit <mchenrycountyhistory.org/museum-store> or send email to <info@mchenrycountyhistory.org> for a mail-in order form.

All proceeds benefit the society.

**Quilt Book CONTENTS**

-Introduction
-How We Make a New Quilt

*-Our Quilts, Year by Year*

2012 .....Old Favorite
2013 .....Jenny's Legacy
2014 .....Mostly Morris
2015 .....Mood Indigo
2016 .....Pieceful Garden
2017 .....Threads of Friendship
2018 .....Forever Poppies
2019 .....Honoring Adelia
2020 .....Fit To Be Tied
2021 .....Small Town Square
2023 .....Heritage Stars
2024 .....Prairie Basket

-Our very own quilter extraordinaire
-Changing of the Guard
-Illinois and County Quilt Registration
-Museum Collection and Storage
-Huntley restoration
-Care and storage of quilts in private collections
-By the Way, Did you Know...
-Bibliography
-Sponsors

# Heritage Fair Baking Contest 2023 WINNING RECIPE

## *Nancy's Apple Strudel*

**BY KATHY BETKE**

*Nancy Baker's Apple Strudel was chosen by our esteemed judges to be the Grand Champion entry at the Heritage Fair Baking Contest on July 9, 2023. As an added twist, bakers were invited to submit the story behind their recipe, along with the recipe and the baked item. Stories were shared with those in attendance at the baking contest. Baked goods were accepted from four categories: Pies, Cakes, Cookies/Bars, Bread/Muffins. The Grand Champion Apple Strudel earned a perfect score in all three of the judged areas: Taste, Texture, and Appearance. This is the story behind Nancy's award-winning strudel.*

"If you were a teacher at Washington School in Harvard, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, or a member of her bridge club, you really looked forward to when it was Dee Pihl's turn to bring baked goods. If you were family, you knew you would never see any leftovers.

My mom probably enjoyed baking for her family the most—we were a very appreciative audience. Her basement freezer was always stocked with a variety of frozen baked goods and for several years, the grandchildren knew where the key to the freezer was hidden. But my dad, who had been known to sneak too many cookies and was therefore locked out, did not. (Or at least he pretended he didn't know where the key was hidden).

My mom's recipe books are a maze of notations about options, ingredients, failures, and successes as she tried to improve on recipes that most of us thought were already perfect. Among her many specialties was Apple Strudel—a recipe she made and shared for over 50 years. Over those years, it was modified to include a variety of sizes and fillings. For the past couple of decades, it has become my tradition to bake a variety of strudels for Easter brunch. My personal favorite is cream cheese filling, but I chose apple for the Heritage Fair due to food safety."

## APPLE STRUDEL

Cut 1 cup of butter into 2 cups of flour, as for pie crust.

Add 1 cup of buttermilk. Mix, form into ball, then wrap in Saran Wrap, refrigerate for 24 hours.

Preheat oven to 350. Divide dough into halves.

Roll each half into an oblong shape. Put each oblong on a cookie sheet before filling.

Spread ½ can of commercial or ½ of pie filling recipe (below) down the middle of the oblong.

Fold in ends of dough, then overlap sides. Cut diagonal slices through just the top crust.

Bake for an hour, at 350 degrees, until brown.

Note: Dough can be divided into thirds for smaller pastries. If chosen, decrease baking time by +/- 10 minutes.

While still warm, drizzle frosting, made of 3 tablespoons of warmed milk with approximately 1 cup of powdered sugar (should be the consistency of thick cream).

## HOMEMADE PIE FILLING

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in saucepan.

Add 4 apples, peeled, cored & chopped into small pieces to 3 tablespoons of water, 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon (or to taste), and 1/3 cup sugar. Stir and cover.

Cook for 5 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until apples start to soften.

Mix 1 tablespoon + 1 teaspoon of cornstarch into 2 tablespoons of water in small bowl until smooth.

Stir into apples and continue to cook and stir, until apples are soft but not mushy.

*(Different apple varieties cook differently and produce more, or less juice. Adjust as needed.)* Cool & serve.

Kathy Betke is a retired educator and a volunteer docent for children's groups at the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum. She organizes the baking contests for Heritage Fair and Cider Fest. She has been perfecting her baking skills for over 60 years!

# MCHS Facts:
# What WE do for YOU and other fine county citizens
# Please lend a hand.

• Our website, **mchenrycountyhistory.org** is undergoing changes, so please bear with us as that effort continues to evolve.

• In 2026, we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of our museum's opening on July 4th, 1976. This is very much a top-of-mind opportunity for us - you'll continue to hear more. America250 will also be celebrated nationwide during that year, and we'll play a key local history role. Your input will be appreciated.

• In 2024, as we continue to celebrate our founding 61 years ago, the McHenry County Historical Society and its members have a proud track record, rich in preservation, education, and entertainment contributions to McHenry County. We continue to evolve, focused upon HISTORY EDUCATION, CIVIC AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION. Our board remains firmly committed to our mission.

• We spearheaded efforts to develop a McHenry County Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1990. Most larger municipalities followed our lead with their own local ordinances.

• We restored & continue to preserve the 1847 Gannon log cabin, 1867 Pringle School, 1886 Seneca Town Hall, 1895 West Harmony School, 1898 Riley Methodist Church & one of the 1950s Orsolini Modern Tourist Cabins from Richmond (reconstructed inside our museum!)

• Our cabin was built in 1847 by Luke Gannon near Crystal Lake and moved to the McHenry County Fairgrounds many decades later. In 1980, it was moved to our museum campus in Union. We have it furnished for the period and open it up throughout the year for events, school tours and more.

• Now, as it approaches 180 years of age, Luke's little cabin needs preservation work again. Please let us know, when you donate, that you'd like to earmark your donation to this important cause, or anything else that sparks your interest in local history.

• We create learning experiences and events. We participate in the activities of like-minded organizations throughout McHenry and Lake County.

• We have fun while teaching, learning, and experiencing history together. Our outreach to young families continues. If your family would like to participate, please contact us.

• In 2011, we helped create the Northern Illinois Quilt Fest, in cooperation with many fine people across all six Northern Illinois counties. We also support our own local Heritage Quilters group and their annual raffle quilt. Their second book, again edited by Jan Knight along with Deb Silker and Don Rose was published in October, 2023.

• Our almost-complete city block museum campus in Union includes the 1870 native limestone Union School and other properties. We encourage you to visit often to discover what's new.

• More than 11,000 square feet of exhibits at our museum in Union offer a trip through the history of our County from Pleistocene to Twentieth Century. McEachren Hall provides a chronological journey of the county's social history, including migration, economics, war, and sports. Eckart Hall showcases larger pieces and architectural displays. Also here is our relatively new Anderson Gallery, where we showcase many of our most popular artifacts. Deicke Hall showcases our county's rich agricultural history. Our entire exhibit space is temperature-controlled and accessible, with sitting space throughout. Docents are available on request.

• Some of our artifacts are cared for on-site, with over 7,500 square feet of space devoted to storage and preservation. During our 60+ years, many thousands of items, including personal items, furniture, tools, household and kitchen wares, paintings, our textile collection, which includes clothing, shoes, historical dress, flags, quilts, tapestries, hats, gloves and much more have been donated to our collection. Oversized items are stored in a 3000 SF off-site facility. Not all artifacts can be displayed, due to gallery space limitations, fragility, or need for restoration. Despite these constraints, our collection remains rich and varied, reflecting McHenry County history through carefully preserved artifacts.

• Explore genealogical resources to trace your family's roots through census records or discover the history of your property. Our collection of local history publications provides a comprehensive overview of the county's evolution.

• We welcome school, adult, and private groups of all ages and abilities to visit us for tours. We require a docent to lead all organized, non-family groups of 6 or more. Advance reservations are also required.
For more information, or to schedule, please contact us at: grouptours@mchenrycountyhistory.org or call 815-923-1261.

• **Without any use of tax dollars,** we continue to collect and preserve three-dimensional artifacts of local human progress. We are also bringing online collection access to our patrons in innovative ways - watch for this to increase in the next few years!

• Our educational programs foster thinking, to help connect the realities of today with insightful perspective on the continuous flow of history.

• Our Historic Sites committee has identified and provided commemorative plaques in almost one hundred notable locations throughout our county.

• We honor and assist local organizations and businesses with preservation of their unique historic legacies. In 2010, we held our Business Diamond Jubilee, saluting McHenry County businesses in operation for 75 + years. If you run a legacy business, please reach out.

• Our museum provides a family-oriented entertainment and educational destination, uniquely and interactively telling the ongoing story of McHenry County and its people.

• As a resource for local history information, we field and respond to many daily requests on preservation, properties, notable citizens, family history, business history, historic images and object conservation. Our skilled staff is always willing to hear of your interests. Uncover the captivating stories that shaped McHenry County at our museum today. To Schedule an appointment or submit a research request, get started today on our website: mchenrycountyhistory.org

• Our research library (primarily free to members) houses thousands of technical books and pamphlets, photographs, postcards, maps, journals; business, club, school and governmental records; local history books, biographical files, scrapbooks, newspapers, phone directories, high school yearbooks and knowledgeable people with answers to all sorts of questions. We celebrated our 40th anniversary of library service in 2022. View the commemorative event flyer here:

mchenrycountyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2209-RL-40th-Brochure-DR.pdf

• Preserving community history provides multi-sensory collective memory. Ultimately, our goal is to encourage the appreciation of all aspects of our environment, both natural and manmade. Appreciation of history will most definitely enrich your family's lives and experiences.

• Those individuals who are sensitive to their environment make better citizens. Better citizens vote, they participate in community life and they teach their children by example.

***Editor's Note: I update this list with each issue; always seeking your input. -Don***

# Mystery Photo

BY DON ROSE

Gus Persson took the photo at left of a carnival set up on the east side of Woodstock in 1906. At first glance, it seems to be the McHenry County fairgrounds, but it's not.

**Your mission: identify the location and the occasion.**

*One clue: the three houses on the right are still there.*

Email your answers, with "Tracer Mystery Photo" in the subject line to: don@mchenrycountyhistory.org

## Old Mystery Photo

The photo at left, taken by Woodstock's own Don Peasley, has appeared on this page in the last two Tracers, and surprisingly *garnered no guesses from our readers. Here are the answers:*

1) Year: **1961** 2) Title: **McHenry County Dairy Princess** 3) Winner: **Patricia Hogan** (in back, center) 4) Hometown: **Ringwood** 5) Contestants (handwritten on back of photo): 1961. Dairy Princess candidates. From left, front: Elaine Knopp, Harvard; Dorothy Adams, McHenry; Marie Hunter, Woodstock; Joyce Lembcke, Harvard; Jet Halma, Crystal Lake. Middle: Kathy Curran, McHenry; Joyce Kopsell, Huntley; Brenda Cornue, Hebron; Darlene Schaefer, McHenry; Marjorie Zarnsdorff, Richmond. Back: Arlene Raupp, Harvard; Carolyn Blake, McHenry; **Patricia Hogan, Ringwood, 1961 Dairy Princess**, Julie Johnson, Hebron; and Rosalie Simons, Marengo.

## Early Photographs WANTED

**In these pages, you'll continue to see photographs depicting local history, our Society & museum history, our generous members, the many hours of dedicated volunteer activity, decades of staff and board member work, speakers, events, celebrations and cooperation with other McHenry County nonprofits and regional local history organizations.**

**We're always looking for more MCHS-related images from you.**

**Send them to don@mchenrycountyhistory.org**

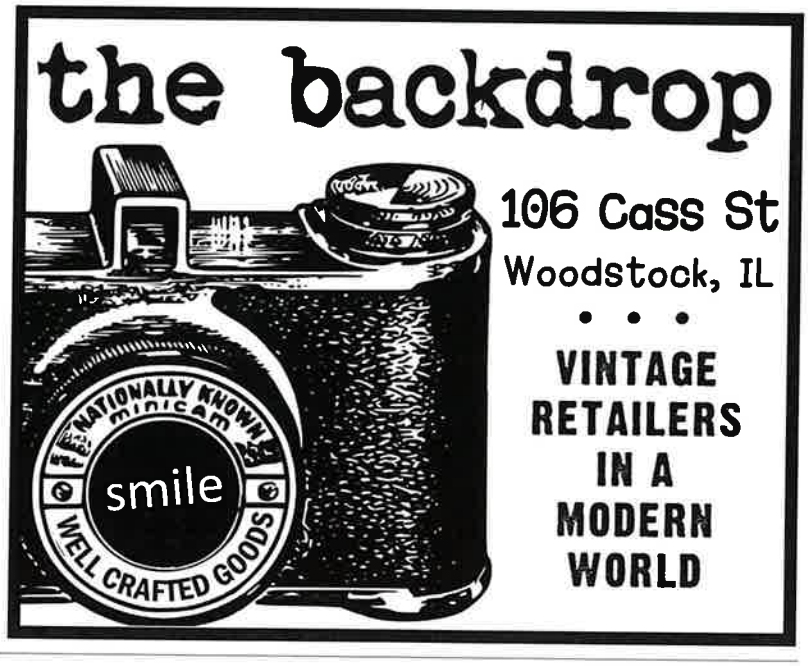
**Reminder: 2026** will mark the **250th anniversary** of America's founding, and the **50th anniversary** of our museum's opening.

Visit this site: **< america250.org >** to learn more

For all of us at MCHS, 2026 will be a **BIG** year. Stay tuned and **please get involved**!


# Let's talk soon

about *your* Tracer ad



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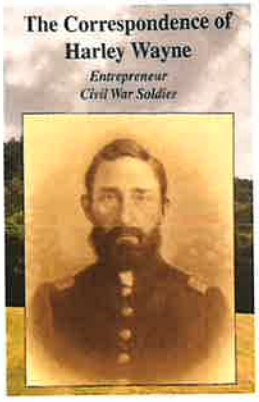
## CIDER FEST
## OCTOBER 6

**October 12th Speaker**
**Craig Pfannkuche**
**"C&NW Railway Union to Marengo"**




Page 11
**Our second local history book review**

**Our own Bob Frenz's latest book!**

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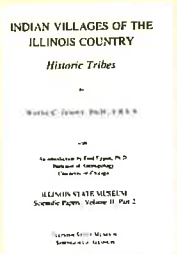
## PLEASE HELP!

Our research library **CONTINUES to SEEK** donations of the **Fox Valley Mirror** (magazine issues) **especially 1930s.** FVM was published in Carpentersville from 1932 to 1947.

## New in our MCHS Research Library...

• Temple, Wayne, *Indian Villages of the Illinois Country : Historic Tribes : Springfield, IL : Illinois State Museum Revised*, 1966 218p, Illustrated




[Library also has *Atlas of Indian Villages of the Illinois Country, 1670-1830*]

• Illinois State Geological Survey, *Inside Illinois : Mineral Resources, 2nd edition*, 1970 31p, Illustrated (Illinois State Geological Survey, Educational Series #9)

• Urch, Gloria J., *Making Rhyme : Prose and Poetry by Gloria Urch, Riverside Press*, 1991 31p, Illustrated

• Nunda Herald Supplement, *Official Illustrated Prospectus of Nunda and Crystal Lake, Ill*, October 18, 1906, 31p, newspaper, Illustrated

[This paper talks of Halberstadt's bakery, on Williams Street in C.L., where 300 loaves of bread and about 50 varieties of cakes and other items were turned out daily]

• Willman, H.B., *Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area - Illinois State Geological Survey*, 1971, 77p : Illustrated

• *West McHenry State Bank Ledgers*, Library has:
Sept. 10, 1906 - Feb. 29, 1908
July 13, 1912 - Sept. 30, 1913
Dec. 11, 1914 - Jan. 4, 1916
Jan. 26, 1917 - Feb. 6, 1918

• Cohen, Stew, *The WYEN Experience : An Insider's Story of the radio station where many prominent broadcasters got their start*, Bloomington, IL : Universe, Inc., 2013, 271p, illustrated

***FYI:*** ***Over 1200 items (within 7 collections) are available here:***
**woodstockpubliclibraryarchives.omeka.net**